

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 07559 231413Z

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10 L-02 H-02 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1254

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, FAO, UNWFC, FODAG

SUBJECT: FAO CONSULTATION ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

1. SUMMARY. CONSULTATION HAS GONE SMOOTHLY, WHILE HIGHLIGHTING CONTRAST BETWEEN LDC-FAO APPROACH FOOD SECURITY BASED ON BUILDING UP INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL STOCKPILES AS COMPARED TO GLOBAL INITIATIVE TAKEN BY U.S. CONSULTATION LIKELY TO AVOID SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION ON FORM EVENTUAL FAO COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY SHOULD TAKE, WITH EXPANDED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EXISTING COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS NOW A POSSIBILITY. CONFRONTATION WITH LDCE WAS MORE EASILY AVOIDED THAN WITH EC. UPON FRENCH INSISTANCE, EC PRESSED FOR RECOMMENDATION ON NEGOTIATIONS IN OTHER FORA BIASED IN FAVOR OF EXCLUSIVITY FOR MTN GRAINS SUB-GROUP. STRONG U.S., AUSTRALIAN AND CANADIAN OPPOSITION ULTIMATELY RESULTED IN FRENCH RETREAT, BUT INCIDENT UNDERSCORES TENUOUS NATURE OF AGREEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS DEALING WITH GRAINS.

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PAGE 02 ROME 07559 231413Z

END SUMMARY.

2. AD HOC CONSULTATION ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY, CONVENED AD INTERIM PENDING ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT WORLD FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE BY FAO CONFERENCE THIS FALL, HAS MOVED EXPEDITIOUSLY AND HAS AVOIDED SHARP DC-LDC DIVISION WHICH MARKED SIMILAR CONSULTATION LAST YEAR. MORE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO MOVEMENT LDCS SEE ON ISSUES IDENTIFIED AT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (WFC) AND TO FAVORABLE 1975/76 CROP OUTLOOK AND LOWER GRAIN PRICES. AGENDA ITEMS DEALING WITH FOOD SUPPLY OUTLOOK AND PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING WFC RESOLUTION ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY WERE UNCONTROVERISAL.

3. DISCUSSION OF FAO PROGRAM TO ASSIST LDCS IN MEETING FOOD SECURITY OBJECTIVES BROUGHT INTO FOCUS SHARP CONCEPTUAL DIFFERENCE WITH APPROACH. US AND OTHER MAJOR EXPORTERS ARE PURSUING. LDCS SEE PROBLEM PRIMARILY IN NATIONAL TERMS, I.E., BUILDING UP NATIONAL GRAINS STOCKPILE IN EACH COUNTRY ACCORDING TO INDIVIDUALLY DETERMINED STOCK TARGETS. FAO IS INTENT UPON ENLARGING PROGRAM OF FIELD MISSIONS BEGUN THIS BIANNIUM TO ASSIST LDCS IN DETERMINING THEIR STOCK NEEDS AND THEIR REQUIRMENTS FOR ALL RELATED FACILITIES -- WITH EMPHASIS ON EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE TO MEET THEM. IN LDC-FAO CONCEPT, DCS AND ESPECIALLY GRAIN EXPORTERS, WILL BE CALLED UPON TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FINANCING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STORAGE AND HANDLING FACILITIES AND FINALLY COMMODITIES THEMSELVES. THEY ALSO EXPECT THAT UNDP, IBRD AND REGIONAL BANKS WILL COOPERATE BY PROVIDING SOME OF NEEDED FINANCING. THIS CONTRASTS WITH DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY IN IWC COORDINATED STOCK ARRANGEMENT AMONG MAJOR IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS TO ADDRESS PROBLEM IN GLOBAL TERMS.

4. AD HOC CONSULTATION WILL TAKE ON MAIN ITEM--STEPS TOWARD CREATING PERMANENT WORLD FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE--WILL BE DETERMINED AT FINAL SESSION FRIDAY AFTERNOON. IT NOW APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT RESULT WILL BE INCONCLUSIVE. ARGUMENTS PRESENTED BY CHAIRMAN OF FAO COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS (CCP) CONCERNING LARGE AREA OF OVERLAP BETWEEN CCP AND PROPOSED NEW COMMITTEE HAVE IMPRESSED MOST DELEGATES. LIKELY OUTCOME IS REINDORSEMENT OF CONCEPT OF COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT FAO COUNCIL SESSION IN OCTOBER TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OUTCOME OF CCP DELIBERATION OF ITS FUTURE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO FAO CONFERENCE. SEVERAL DELEGATES HAVE SUGGESTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ROME 07559 231413Z

RECONSTITUTION OF CCP TO ENCOMPASS WORLD FOOD SECURITY AS MOST EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGMENT. US DELEGATION HAS GIVEN THIS APPROACH DISCREET BUT STRONG SUPPORT.

5. IN DISCUSSION OF ITEM ON NEGOTIATIONS IN OTHER FORA, AND ON OTHER OCCASIONS, AUSTRALIAN AND CANADIAN DELS SPOKE IN FAVOR OF VIGOROUSLY PURSUING NEGOTIATION OF A GRAIN AGREEMENT IN IWC. WHETHER BECAUSE OF THIS OR BECAUSE OF GDF DISSATISFACTION WITH

US.EC COMPROMISE ON MTN SUB-GROUP ON GRAINS, FRENCH DELEGATION--
TO FRUSTRATION OF EC DEL MOLVE'--INSISTED ON EFFORT TO WRITE
MTN INTO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIS CONSULTATION AS THE EXCLUSIVE
FORUM FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON GRAINS, WITH IWC RELEGATED TO POSITION
OF A TECHNICAL STUDY GROUP. US DEL REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO
OPEN CONFRONTATION IN PLENARY SESSION, AND FOLLOWING LANGUAGE
FINALLY AGREED UPON AMONG US, EC, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA,
CANADA AND JAPAN, "(CONSULTATION) CALLS UPON GOVERNMENTS TO
PURSUE ACTIVELY THE NEGOTIATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT
ON CEREALS BEARING IN MIND THE NEED TO ACCELERATE THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON
WORLD FOOD SECURITY". FRENCH ATTITUDE DOES NOT BODE WELL FOR GRAINS
SUB-GROUP AND IWC MEETINGS NEXT WEEK. VOLPE

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